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*Do you know someone who may be interested in this study?
Please share this newsletter. If you would like more copies,
contact Project Manager Rob Wagner at (920) 492-5983.*



WIS 23 PROJECT ON THE WEB!
www.dot.wisconsin.gov/projects/d3/wis23/index.htm

Address lines

Project history and timeline

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public information meetingMay 5 and 6, 2002
<i>Present study plans and schedule</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> WIS 23 committee meetingsMarch 2004
<i>Access issues discussed with committee</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WIS 23 committee meetingsSummer 2002
<i>Generate final highway criteria and alternatives</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Public information meetingMarch 2004
<i>Present draft EIS results</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NewsletterSeptember 2002
<i>Update on alternatives and project schedule</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Draft EIS submittedSpring 2004
<i>Draft EIS is submitted to Madison/FHWA for approval,
a 45-day public comment period commences</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WIS 23 committee meetingFebruary 2003
<i>Review analysis of alternatives</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Public hearingSpring 2004
<i>Final opportunity for public comment</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public information meetingFebruary 2003
<i>Present preliminary results of alternative analysis and collect
public input</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> WIS 23 committee meetingsSummer 2004
<i>Discussion of preferred alternative</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WIS 23 value studySummer/fall 2002
<i>See article below</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> NewsletterSummer 2004
<i>Announcement of preferred alternative</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NewsletterFebruary 2004 | <input type="checkbox"/> Current construction schedule2009 to 2011 |



WIS 23 Project Report

Fond du Lac to Plymouth

February 2004

Contact information:

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Web site:
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Note: The WIS 23 project Web address is included on the back page.

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Mission statement:
To provide leadership in the development and operation of a safe and efficient transportation system.

Included in this issue:

- Public information meetings scheduled
- Summer value planning study completed
- A message from state legislators
- WIS 23 Advisory Committee Members
- Project timeline

Environmental impact study continues

This past summer, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) has gathered historical and archaeological information for the WIS 23 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

WisDOT evaluated social, economic, and agriculture factors, and natural affects to the air, land, and water within the various corridors. The department is working to attain commitments and concurrence points with participating agencies.

The draft EIS has not been completed at this time. Our original timeline anticipated completion and corridor selection by this past summer/fall 2003. Additional environmental agreement requirements will extend work into 2004.

These additions will better help evaluate the corridors being studied and prevent future delays. This schedule modification in the draft EIS and the corridor selection process will not delay the construction of Highway 23, currently scheduled for 2009 to 2011.

A public hearing will be held a few weeks after the draft EIS is approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The public will

be able to officially comment on the draft EIS to a court reporter at the public hearing. Your comments and those of public officials and agencies will provide information and will aid WisDOT in selecting an alternative.

Copies of the draft EIS will be available at local libraries, town halls, city and county offices, and on-line at the WisDOT Web site after it is approved.

Additionally, we will present information contained in the draft EIS at two public information meetings on March 18 and 23, 2004. This information will help guide you through the draft EIS and it's contents prior to the public hearing process including what you can expect at the hearing and how you can provide testimony.

The identical public informational meetings will be held in Fond du Lac and Greenbush. Meeting information is found below.



Public information meetings scheduled

WisDOT has scheduled two public information meetings to present information contained in the draft EIS. Both meetings will feature the same information and agenda.

The meetings are being held in an open-house format with maps and exhibits of the proposed alternatives available for review. The public is encouraged to attend at their convenience.

Meeting schedule:

Thursday March 18, 2003
2:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Greenbush Town Hall

Tuesday March 23, 2003
5:00 pm to 8:00 pm
UW Fond du Lac
Main Entrance
400 University Drive



The 18-member WIS 23 Advisory Committee was selected to provide a consistent local review of the alternatives being outlined in the EIS. The committee ensures representation for the entire WIS 23 corridor.

WIS 23 Advisory Committee members

Fond du Lac County
Ernest Winters.....(920) 459-3822
Highway Commissioner
Sam Tobias.....(920) 929-3822
Planning Director

City of Fond du Lac
Wayne Rollin.....(920) 929-3310
Community Development Director

Sheboygan County
Roger Laning.....(920) 459-3822
Highway Commissioner
Shannon Haydin.....(920) 459-3060
Director of Planning
UW EXTENSION
Dave Such.....(920) 467-5740
Educator

Town of Plymouth
Roger Rortveldt.....(920) 893-0242

Town of Forest
Norman L. Loehr.....(920) 921-4035
Chairperson

Town of Greenbush
Dan Klahn.....(920) 526-3368
Mike Limberg.....(920) 526-3368
Chairman

Town of Empire
Mary Toriello.....(920) 923-1373

Citizens
Ned Sippel.....(920) 922-5016
Jim Horning.....(920) 922-4887
Sara Davis.....(920) 921-1314
Joyce Wessel.....(920) 526-3602
Don Cooper.....(920) 526-3451
Traci Hankwitz.....(920) 922-1575
Ellen Eldridge Tate.....(920) 457-4333

Value planning study completed summer 2003

A Value Planning Study (VP) was conducted this summer to reevaluate the future purpose and need of WIS 23 and to provide solutions to achieve these desired needs.

The 40-hour workshop study is mandated by the FHWA. The group that reviewed this project included state and national experts in the fields of highway engineering, traffic engineering, and planning.

Members of the Highway 23 Advisory Committee were also included in this group to provide a local perspective.

The study identified problems along the existing corridor and provided general recommendations. In addition, the study recommended alternatives to be evaluated by WisDOT.

This recommendation will be included in WisDOT’s evaluation along with other information including cost, agricultural, natural, and residential impacts and public comments to choose an alternative. A copy of the final VP report will be included in the draft EIS.



As WIS 23 travels through Fond du Lac and Sheboygan counties it needs to serve both local residents and motorists passing through.



State legislators share their thoughts...

Dear Neighbors of Wisconsin State Highway 23,

We are pleased to provide you with a legislative update on the reconstruction and expansion of Wisconsin State Highway 23. Your interest and constructive input for the success of this important transportation project is respected and appreciated.

As you know, the reconstruction and expansion of Wisconsin (WIS) 23 between Plymouth and Fond du Lac was enumerated (approved for construction) by the State Legislature in 1999. This action was based on requests from area residents, businesses and community leaders to improve the roadway for both personal and commercial travel. WIS 23 is the major east-west transportation artery vital to the well being of numerous surrounding communities in both Sheboygan and Fond du Lac Counties. In addition, the highway plays a unique role in contributing to the economic growth and social welfare of our state.

The public and private transportation needs of our area continue to increase and WIS 23 has outgrown its current design. Capacity must be added to serve existing and forecasted traffic volumes. Additionally, insufficiencies in the roadway’s current structure and the intersection design are creating an increased number of safety related problems. The WIS 23 expansion project will provide additional roadway capacity and improve operational efficiency and traffic safety.

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) is currently working to develop a plan for the expansion project. As with all plans, questions and ideas or concerns are certain to arise. As your elected representatives, we will continue to keep a watchful eye on this project ensuring that we achieve our goal of providing an expanded roadway that improves safety and travel efficiency, while being respectful to private property rights and to the taxpayers of our state.

As the project moves forward, we encourage you to educate yourself and remain involved in the expansion of WIS 23. Please contact us if we can answer questions or provide any information. We are here to serve you!

Sincerely,

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